

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14357 011708Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 011653Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1089

S E C R E T BONN 14357

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2,3

TAGS: PARM, GW, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM: FRG
INQUIRIES

REF: (A) STATE 208136 DTG 311630Z AUG 77

(B) PRETORIA 4492 DTG 301628Z AUG 77

(C) BONN 14137 DTG 291759Z AUG 77

(D) STATE 200248 DTG 230318Z AUG 77

(E) BONN 13059 DTG 122202Z AUG 77

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1 EMBOFF CONVEYED RESPONSES CONTAINED
REF A (EXCEPT SECOND SENTENCE PARA 2) TO HAUBER OF THE
FOREIGN OFFICE ARMS CONTROL DIVISION. HAUBER TOOK
CAREFUL NOTE AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THE RESPONSES TO
FONOFF STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL AND TO FEDERAL CHANCEL-
LERY.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HAUBER
SPECULATED ON MEANING OF ENGLISH WORD "IMMINENT"
(PARA 1, REF A), SUGGESTING THAT IT MEANS "LIKELY TO
TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY OR WITHIN A FEW DAYS". HE ASKED
FOR OPINION OF EMBOFF, WHO DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE
TIME FRAME TO WHICH "IMMINENT" IN PARA 1 OF REF A MIGHT
REFER. HAUBER SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT USG'S USE
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OF "IMMINENT" DID NOT PRECLUDE THAT THE TEST MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT,
HAUBER READ EMBOFF PORTIONS OF NON-PAPER LEFT WITH FRG
ON AUGUST 9 BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN EXPRESSING
CONCERN OVER SAG NUCLEAR PROGRAM (REF E). IT REFERRED
TO SITE AS BEING DEFINITELY FOR NUCLEAR TESTS, AND TO
TEST AS SOMETHING WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN A VERY

SHORT TIME FRAME.

3. HAUBER SAID FRG INTENDED TO REPLY FAIRLY SOON TO FALIN'S DEMARCHE. CONTENT WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT BY FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. REPLY WOULD PROBABLY BE ORAL, MADE TO FALIN IN BONN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY A NON-PAPER TO BE LEFT WITH FALIN.

4. HAUBER MENTIONED THAT, ON FONOFF INSTRUCTIONS, FRG AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA HAD JUST MADE ANOTHER DEMARCHE TO SAG EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT COMMENTS OF SAG FINANCE MINISTER HORWOOD TO EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA RESERVED RIGHT TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR OTHER THAN PEACEFUL PURPOSES (REF B). HAUBER SAID FRG AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ASSURED BY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE THAT FINANCE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS WERE OUT OF LINE AND THAT SAG STOOD BY ITS ASSURANCES TO THE US (REF D). AS PART OF SAME DEMARCHE, FRG AMB S OR, SPEAKING IN NAME OF GENSCHER, AGAIN URGED SAG TO ADHERE TO NPT.
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Message Attributes

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